



Flood Control District of Maricopa County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OPEN HOUSE TO PROVIDE RESIDENTS WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE MCMICKEN DAM PROJECT

PHOENIX (Aug. 23, 2006) – The Flood Control District of Maricopa County (District) is currently conducting a study on the McMicken Dam Project as part of the Wittmann Area Drainage Master Plan. This study is an early step in the process of maintaining the McMicken Dam Project's intended flood control function. Careful consideration is being given to rehabilitating the McMicken Dam Project in order to extend its useful life, maintain flood control benefits to downstream properties, and comply with state dam safety requirements.

An informational open house is scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on September 21, 2006, at the Dysart Unified School District's Education Center, to provide the public with an opportunity to talk informally with project team members and receive updates about the McMicken Dam Project. The Dysart Education Center is located at 15802 North Parkway Place in Surprise. Due to the building's recent construction, permanent signage is not in place. However, temporary signage will be available for the open house.

For more information or to obtain a copy of the project's information brochure, visit the District's Web site at www.fcd.maricopa.gov or contact Kelli Sertich, regional area planning manager, at 602-506-0867.

The McMicken Dam Project includes the McMicken Dam, an earthen structure approximately 10 miles long and 34 feet high; the dam outlet channel, which is approximately six miles in length; and the outlet wash, approximately four miles in length and empties into the Agua Fria River. The structure is located within the City of Surprise between Peoria Avenue and Happy Valley Road. The McMicken Dam Project was originally constructed in 1955 to protect Luke Air Force Base and surrounding agricultural lands from flooding. However, since the initial construction, considerable development in the Cities of Glendale, Peoria, and Surprise has occurred downstream from the dam. These communities benefit significantly from the McMicken Dam Project, and thus it is necessary to keep the protection provided by the structure in place.

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County is tasked to provide regional flood hazard identification, regulation, remediation, and education to Maricopa County residents so that they can reduce their risk of injury, death, and property damage from flooding, while still enjoying the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains.